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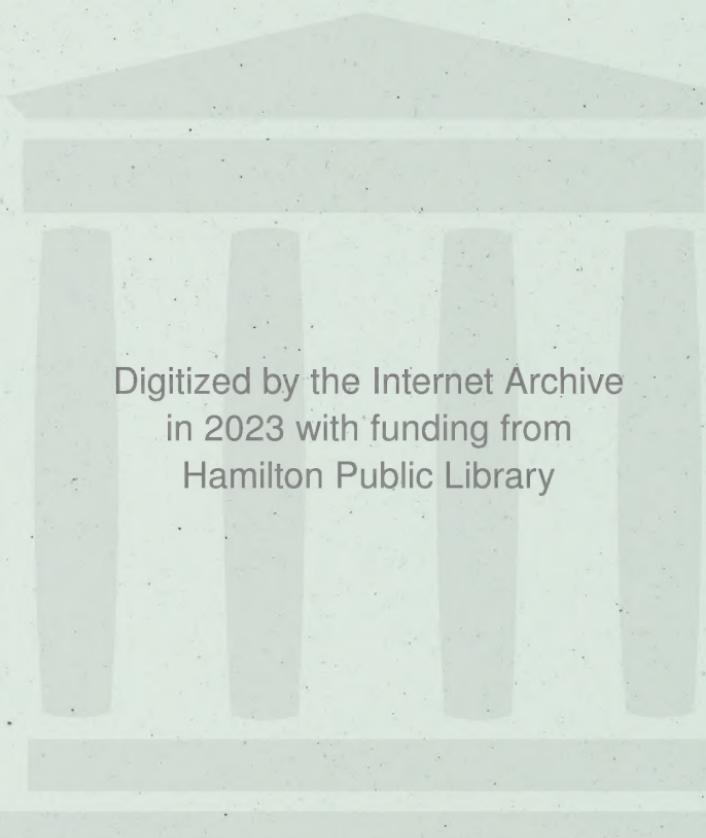
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

**1991/1992
ANNUAL
REPORT**

**THE SOCIAL PLANNING
& RESEARCH COUNCIL
of Hamilton & District**



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Before I sat down to write this President's report, I re-read the President's message contained in several earlier annual reports. We all had to cover the same ground. I know my predecessors were as sincere in their thanks as I am in mine.

We all have the pleasant duty to thank on behalf of our Board, and indeed the community's behalf, the work of our outgoing Past President. This year Urmas Soomet did yeoman service by serving his third year as Past President due to the absence of Dr. Larry Chambers who was in England for a sabbatical year.

Working with a staff as dedicated and hard working as the people who are employed at the SPRC often leaves me with a sense of awe as I watch them juggle their projects and responsibilities. Mary Swan is retiring after 26 years with us. Her departure leaves us with a hole in our staff and a pain in our heart... neither will ever be completely cured.

My fellow volunteers continue to struggle with both the form and content of the issues we face. I'm reminded of an old story; An old man was planting a carob tree. A passerby asked "Old man, why are you planting that tree? You will never live to see its fruit!" The old man replied, "As my father and grandfather planted for me I plant for my children and grandchildren." We revisit old issues, we re-examine our priorities and we help our communities grow and develop. Not over night, not all at once but slowly and with method we, like the old man in the story, plant for our children and our community.

During the past year we looked at issues around multiculturalism, and revisited ways of research that are community-based and anecdotal... the Research Advisory Committee and the Community Development Discussion Group chose a new format to continue their work as one committee... the issues of child poverty, taxation, competitiveness, and housing were, and are, ongoing issues that we address... this note could easily take several pages if I were to merely highlight the balance of our activities.

Next year we hope to bring our message of community-based action and research to a wider audience in part through our relocation into new premises in partnership with the Rotary Club of Hamilton, the City of Hamilton, and several self-help groups. We

will continue to plant and hopefully nurture the seeds of a healthy vibrant, sustainable community.

Those who have gone before us in the more than 30 year history of the SPRC deserve our thanks and approbation. We will miss all those members of our board who retire this year. The loss of Board members who have given us the length and quality of service exemplified by David Godley's contribution through his two-term membership, should be recognised. If a retiring Board member deserves special recognition, Bill Fuller would be the one. His services on many committees, his insight and dedication to the causes of social justice will be missed.

Craig Fraser, President 1973-75 and Joel Hartwell, member of our Board and Treasurer from 1971 to 1979 both passed away during the past year. Many believe that our immortality is tied to the "work" we leave behind. Their "work" for a better community is more tribute than any words of mine can add.

Marvin Caplan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The ongoing economic problems of our Region have had a pronounced impact on the work of the SPRC during the past year. Most notably, the proportion of our resources which have been allocated to issues of employment and poverty increased substantially. Despite this shift in resources, the Council managed to maintain ongoing commitments to housing, multiculturalism, service coordination and our minor consultation program. The economic problems of the Region have also continued to impact upon the availability of core staff resources - a half-time research position remained vacant throughout the year because of funding constraints.

Employment

During the past year, the SPRC undertook evaluations of three new employment programs in the Region - the Employment Consortium, the Employment Awareness Program and the REACH Hotline. A significant allocation of staff time was also made to the Labour Market Constellation Network. This Network is a group of seventeen individuals from a variety of government, training, education, social services, business and labour organizations who are collaborating on the development of a human resources strategy for the Region. The Council continued its involvement in the Region's Employment Adjustment Committee and completed a three year follow-up evaluation of the Operation Employability project.

Self-Help

The social services "crunch", which has resulted from a combination of escalating demand and limited funding, has focused new attention on the need to facilitate innovative responses to serving the Region's population. The potential role of self-help groups in providing support has been at the forefront of many of these discussions.

To foster the growth of self-help groups, the SPRC has been playing a leadership role in the development of the country's first Self-Help Centre in the city-owned West Avenue School property. The City of Hamilton has agreed to allow the school facility to be used as a Self-Help Centre on the condition that the SPRC relocate its offices to the facility and assume management responsibility. The Board of Directors agreed to this condition and campaigns are currently underway to raise the required capital

funds to renovate and equip the Centre. The proposed Centre will provide meeting/office space for self-help groups and should commence operation in the fall of 1992.

As a result of an initiative by East Region Mental Health Services, the SPRC has also become involved in a collaborative effort to recruit and train a group of volunteer facilitators who will assist interested persons in forming new self-help groups.

Multiculturalism

The Council's work on multiculturalism continued with the completion of a needs assessment for settlement and integration services in the Region. This project, which involved a significant commitment to consumer-based participatory research, resulted in the identification of a recommended model for the delivery of settlement and integration services in the Region. Following the completion of that study, the Council received funding to undertake the implementation of the recommended model - a new independent agency which will provide a variety of programs for newcomers to the Region. The Advisory Committee which played a very effective leadership role in the needs assessment phase agreed to continue as the advisory body for the implementation phase.

Coordination and Priority Setting

The current crisis with respect to service demand and funding has reinforced the Council's long standing commitment to service coordination and the development of an effective approach to setting human service priorities. Significant allocations of staff time were made to two initiatives by the District Health Council which were undertaken to address coordination and priority setting in two specific sectors - addictions and mental health services. The Council also participated actively in the ongoing Provincial reform of the long term care system through membership on an advisory committee and the facilitation of planning workshops.

During the past few years, considerable progress has been made in priority setting within specific service sectors. The issue of community-wide cross-sector priorities remains a concern. To address this issue, the Council has been collaborating with the District Health Council and the Region's Health Priorities Analysis Unit on an informal review of different models for addressing the issue of health and social service cross-sector priorities. It is hoped that this effort will come to fruition within the coming year.

Poverty

The dramatic increase in social assistance caseloads during the past two years has reinforced the need for an effective community-based response to child poverty. The Council has continued to play an active role in the local Promise the Children 2000 project. This initiative has involved over 150 representatives from a variety of community sectors in two conferences and a number of "brainstorming" sessions during the past year. A number of concrete community-based recommendations have resulted from this process and implementation efforts are underway on a variety of fronts. This process is expected to continue in the years ahead and the SPRC is committed to a strong and ongoing role in this important initiative.

In an attempt to foster more consumer involvement in anti-poverty strategies, the Council also allocated a significant amount of staff time, during the past year to the Hamilton Against Poverty Group.

Taxation

The Council's work on taxation issues continued on two fronts. The policy report of our own Taxation Review Task Force was finalized and distributed for comments to a variety of groups and organizations. As a result of this work, the Council now has a strong base of taxation policy which can be utilized to produce effective responses to taxation reform and as a basis for advocacy initiatives.

The Council has also assisted the Province's Fair Tax Commission by helping to organize a local "Tax Force" which will be attempting during the next year, to generate community participation in the review of provincial taxation policy.

Housing

Our work in housing issues has continued to focus on the Labourhood project and the advocacy efforts of our Social Housing Action Committee. The Labourhood project is an attempt to increase the involvement of the labour movement in housing issues. Last year, this work culminated in the formation of a non-profit housing corporation by United Steelworkers Local 1005. This new organization - 1005 Community Homes - has received an allocation for the construction of 75 units of non-profit housing and the Council has continued to provide support. The Labourhood project also sponsored an important community conference on the issue of labour involvement in affordable hous-

ing and participated in a number of labour-sponsored events.

The Social Housing Action Committee responded to a number of policy initiatives including the City of Hamilton's updated Housing Statement. It also continued to focus on the issue of advocacy for the resolution of the ongoing housing affordability problem in our community. Given the apparent growth of vocal opposition to the establishment of non-profit housing which has occurred during the past year, it is expected that this will continue to be an important function for SHAC in the year ahead.

Healthy Communities and Sustainable Development

The growing popularity of the "healthy community" and "sustainable development" concepts in local planning and decision-making represents an attempt to take a broader view of public policy formation by many authorities. The amalgamation of planning initiatives for health, social, economic and environmental issues has long been a priority for the Council. To further these interests, the SPRC has devoted significant staff time to the Region's Sustainable Development Task Force and the review of their Official Plan. These activities are expected to continue during the coming year.

Administration

From an administrative perspective, the past year has posed distinct challenges. Limited funding increases have resulted in an ongoing vacancy in a half-time Research Assistant's position within the Council. The amount of contracted projects has continued to increase as we attempt to utilize more project funds to support core staff activities.

We also undertook a major review of staff and committee structure as a result of a growing desire to better integrate our community development, research and planning functions. This is expected to result in a major restructuring of the Council during the fall of 1992.

The continuing economic problems of the community resulted in a major review of Council program priorities in the year ahead and the results of this work are also expected to be implemented in the fall.

All of the staff and volunteers at the Council have continued to be exemplary models of what a group of committed and talented people can accomplish through working together on the basis of their

strong commitment to the social development of the community.

The coming year will include a monumental staff change in the Council with the retirement of Executive Assistant, Mary Swan, in June 1992.

Mary has been with the Council for 26 years and it is hard to imagine the SPRC without her. For eight of those years, she has been officially classified as my assistant and secretary. Unofficially, she has been my friend, my confidant and the person who has looked after a myriad of administrative details. She has made my job very easy and I shall miss her very much.

In closing, I want to recognize all the superb volunteers who devote such an extraordinary amount of time and energy to the Council. All of the staff benefit daily from their advice, counsel and enthusiasm. I want to personally thank the Officers of the Council - Marvin Caplan, Mary Ann Seldon, Peter Wegener and Urmas Soomet - they have all been of enormous assistance to me in my role of Executive Director and I look forward to another year of working closely with Marvin, Mary Ann and Peter. I shall miss Urmas' presence as he concludes his extended term as Past-President but I know that he is only a phone call away.

We are "rolling up our sleeves" for another year at the SPRC. The quality of our staff and volunteer resources, coupled with the vitality of our community, will carry us through a year which is almost certain to be even more challenging and exciting than the last.

Mike Pennock

MISSION STATEMENT

As an independent voice in the community, the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and District will act to improve the quality of life for all citizens by engaging in activities which will result in:

A Improved social policies and services

Effective social policy analysis	Effective services	Effective identification of gaps in services	Effective advocacy for change
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B Maximized access for all citizens to the opportunities afforded by society

Well informed community	Improved community attitudes	Effective support to individuals and groups	Removal of barriers to participation in the life of the community
		Effective delivery of service	

C Effective citizen involvement in the continuing consideration of social issues

Effective identification of issues	Expanded community awareness of issues	Effective public participation programs	Effective community organization
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STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The mission of the Social Planning and Research Council is directly related to the fundamental belief of the voluntary sector - that communities have the capacity and the responsibility to identify opportunities to improve the quality of life, and to identify and resolve problems that diminish the quality of life among their citizens. Implicit within this belief, is the commitment that all citizens should have the opportunity to participate equally in this process.

The SPRC is committed to the principle that the most effective responses to community problems arise from the development of an informed consensus among the various sectors that make up the community about both the nature of the problems and the most appropriate responses.

The SPRC also believes that the most effective responses to community problems are based upon the organization of people and resources in community-based organizations.

The SPRC acts as a resource to facilitate the identification and implementation of consensus-based solutions to perceived problems. In recognizing that consensus-based solutions are not always possible, the SPRC is also prepared to advocate on behalf of specific sectors. In most cases, the Council will attempt to accomplish this function by increasing the capacity of the individual group to advocate on its own behalf. In other cases, the Council will play a leadership rather than facilitative role in advocating on behalf of groups.

This statement of philosophy has a number of important implications with respect to SPRC actions:

- 1) That priority will be given to assisting community-based (non-governmental) organizations.
- 2) That priority will be given to working with groups rather than individuals.
- 3) That adversarial responses to community problems would only be supported after extensive efforts at mediation and consensus-building has proved to be ineffective.
- 4) That the SPRC would not assist any groups who are not committed to the philosophy of equal participation among all citizens in community affairs.

AUDITORS REPORT

To the Directors and Members of
The Social Planning and Research Council
of Hamilton and District:

We have audited the balance sheet of The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and District as at March 31, 1992 and the statements of financial activities operating fund and capital fund for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 1992 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Pettinelli, Mastroluisi
Chartered Accountants

Hamilton, Ontario
May 21, 1992

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended March 31 1992	Year Ended March 31 1991
Revenues:		
Support from the public	\$296,679	\$345,395
Support from governments	235,408	72,251
Other	30,550	30,466
	<hr/> 562,637	<hr/> 448,112
Expenses:		
Salaries and consultant fees	405,366	335,485
Employee health and retirement benefits	58,362	38,851
Professional fees	1,087	1,025
Supplies	11,713	10,446
Telephone	3,244	3,415
Postage and shipping	6,379	5,143
Rent and facility insurance	28,345	27,790
Public relations	3,114	90
Local transportation (Staff)	6,073	5,687
Conferences	1,752	3,482
Volunteer expenses	2,251	1,071
Organization dues & periodicals	2,132	1,528
Equipment and maintenance contracts	19,189	6,435
Staff replacement costs	1,247	80
Other administration costs	11,790	7,263
	<hr/> 562,044	<hr/> 447,791
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	593	321
Surplus - Operating Fund, beginning of year	—	—
	593	321
Less: Transferred to capital fund	593	321
Surplus - Operating Fund, end of year	\$ —	\$ —

NOTE: The information given in this Annual Report is an extract from the financial statements. The complete financial statements, including all related notes to the financial statements, are available on request.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1991/92 OFFICERS

Marvin Caplan, President
Mary Ann Seldon, Vice-President
Peter Wegener, Treasurer
Dr. Larry W. Chambers, Past President
Michael W. Pennock, Secretary

HONORARY SOLICITOR William N. Callaghan, Q.C.

HONORARY DIRECTORS

J. Nelson Allan	Dick Capling
Marjorie Baskin	Hubert Martin, Q.C.
Judge T.A. Beckett	Charles T. McNair
Archbishop J. Bothwell	David Seldon
Anthony Butler	Urmas Soomet

DIRECTORS

Term Ending 1992

Marvin Caplan	Dr. Wayne Lewchuk
Bill Fuller	Bro. Richard MacPhee
George Gliva	Mary Ann Seldon
David Godley	*Dr. J. Doug Welland

Term Ending 1993

Rob Alexander	Marie-Louise Kelday
Sandy Bozak	Paul McWhinnie
Gwen Davidson	Norman Westbury
Danny Davids	Dave Wilson

Term Ending 1994

Dr. Mo Ali	George McLauchlin
Mary Buzzell	Norman Preece
Marion Emo	Peter Wegener
Anna Maria Figueiredo	Alan Whittle
Sharon Laffrenier	

CONSULTANT Ed Smee

ADVISORS

Jody Orr, United Way
Norma Walsh, Regional Social Services

*Resigned during the year.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

Executive:	Mary Ann Seldon, Chairperson Marvin Caplan Dr. Larry W. Chambers Shelley Rempel Urmas Soomet Peter Wegener
Finance:	Peter Wegener, Chairperson Marvin Caplan Dr. Larry W. Chambers Mary Ann Seldon Urmas Soomet
Personnel:	Urmas Soomet, Chairperson Marvin Caplan Dr. Larry W. Chambers Mary Ann Seldon Peter Wegener
Nominating:	Urmas Soomet, Chairperson Dr. Mo Ali Sandy Bozak Carole Capling Josephine D'Amico Mary Lou Dingle, Q.C. Susan Goodman Lee Kirby Dr. Wayne Lewchuk Mary Ann Seldon

STANDING COMMITTEES

Research Advisory Committee:

Mark Bekkering	Dr. Julia O'Connor
Mike DeVillaer	Shelley Rempel (Co-Chair)
Marion Emo (Co-Chair)	Dr. Doug Sider*
George Gliva*	Lyn Stewart*
Dr. Bill Lee	Dr. Wayne Warry
Rita Lee-Irvine*	Peter Wegener
Nick Merola	Bob Whiting*

Community Development Discussion Group:

George McLaughlin, Chair	Andrea Horwath
John Ellis	Linda Jenkins
Marion Emo	Lorie King
George Gliva	Dr. Bill Lee
David Godley	Paul McWhinnie
Ann Louise Herron	Ann Snider
Elise Hopkins	Dr. Robert Storey

* Resigned during the year

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Multicultural Policy Sub-Committee of the SPRC

Josephine D'Amico Bill Fuller
Anna Maria Figueiredo Ed Smee

Community-Based Needs Assessment of Settlement and Integration Services Advisory Committee

Mohammed Saleem	Nu Quach
Akhtar	Ines Rios
Manuel Bastos	Lucia Rosas
Hassan Elmi	Maryam Sallami
Atnafu Fikre	Tadele Tamiru
Roxanna Johnson	Jeffers Toby
Hailemaryam Mammo	Ramzi Twal
Theresa Mensah	Maria Weimer
Neville Nunes	

Social Housing Action Committee

Alan Whittle,	Ellen Howard
Chairperson	Andrea Horwath
Christine Bowlby	Bill Janssen
Winnie Capriotti	Lesley Prince*
Danny Davids	Paula Randazzo
Maggie Fischbuch	Mike Robinson
Rosemary Foulds	Mary Ann Seldon*
Bill Fuller	Janet Surmanski
Jackie Gordon	Doug Welland*

Consultant: Gail La Croix

Sustainable Development Sub-Committee of SPRC

Bill Fuller Dr. Wayne Lewchuk
David Godley Alan Whittle

Taxation Review Task Force

Urmas Soomet,	Paul McWhinnie
Chairperson	Norm Preece
Dr. Wayne Lewchuk	Dr. J. Douglas Welland

West Ave School Committee

Sandy Bozak	Peter Wegener
Dr. Wayne Lewchuk	Norm Westbury

* Resigned during the year

STAFF MEMBERS

<i>Executive Director:</i>	Mike Pennock
<i>Research Director:</i>	Gloria DeSantis
<i>Community Development Co-ordinator:</i>	Don Jaffray
<i>Research Associate:</i>	Caroline Ball
<i>Executive Assistant:</i>	Mary Swan
<i>Research Secretary:</i>	Shurl Kocman
<i>Bookkeeper/Secretary:</i>	Caroline Eyk
<i>Volunteer Support Staff:</i>	Kay German
	Hilda Nelligan
	Brian Bodo
	Denise Brooks
	Judy Janes
	Mary Janiga
	Linda Jenkins
	Clara Kumesi
	Paula Randazzo
	Akosia Tulloch
	Clare Cruickshank
	Ross Winyard

Student Staff:

Sheridan College
Mohawk College

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Social Planning and Research Council would like to thank its major funders: the United Way of Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth and the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth for their continued support of the work of the Council. A special thanks goes to the friends of the SPRC for their donations in 1991/92. We acknowledge the support of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, Department of Secretary of State, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, and the Ministry of Community and Social Services for special project funding. During the past twelve months, we have enjoyed the opportunity to work with the Hamilton Public Library, and the Industry-Education Council on a contract basis.

PRESIDENTS

Judge Hugh C. Arrell	1960-61
J. Nelson Allan	1961-63
James G. Smith	1963-65
Thomas A. Beckett	1965-67
Hubert A. Martin	1967-68
Ernest Oliver	1968
Donald O. Cannon	1968-71
Charles T. McNair	1971-73
Craig Fraser	1973-75
Donald A. McFarlane	1975-77
Bishop John C. Bothwell	1977-79
David E. Seldon	1979-81
Marjorie Baskin	1981-83
Anthony Butler	1983-85
Richard G. Capling	1985-87
Urmas Soomet	1987-89
Larry W. Chambers	1989-91
Marvin Caplan	1991-93

**THE SOCIAL PLANNING
& RESEARCH COUNCIL
of Hamilton & District**

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